The Florida Senate

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, SPACE, AND DOMESTIC SECURITY Senator Wright, Chair Senator Harrell, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 12, 2021

TIME: 12:30—3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Wright, Chair; Senator Harrell, Vice Chair; Senators Burgess, Cruz, Gibson, Rodriguez, and

Torres

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Presentation by Major General James S Veterans Affairs	S. Hartsell, Executive Director, Florida Department of	Presented
2	Presentation by Major General James Guard, Department of Military Affairs	O. Eifert, Adjutant General of the Florida National	Presented
	Other Related Meeting Documents		



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.

Florida Senate – Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security
October 12, 2021
James S. Hartsell; Executive Director
www.FloridaVets.org

Did You Know?



Did you know?

Florida veterans bring in more than \$18.4 Billion in Federal Dollars to Florida's economy.

- Nation's 3rd largest veteran population
 - 1,542,770 total veterans
 - 1,172,800 wartime veterans
 - 159,506 women veterans
 - 204,864 retirees
 - 780,845 veterans over 65
 - 401,118 service-connected disabled veterans
 - 749,104 enrolled in VA Health
 Care in Florida
 - o 33,156 enrolled in GI Bill

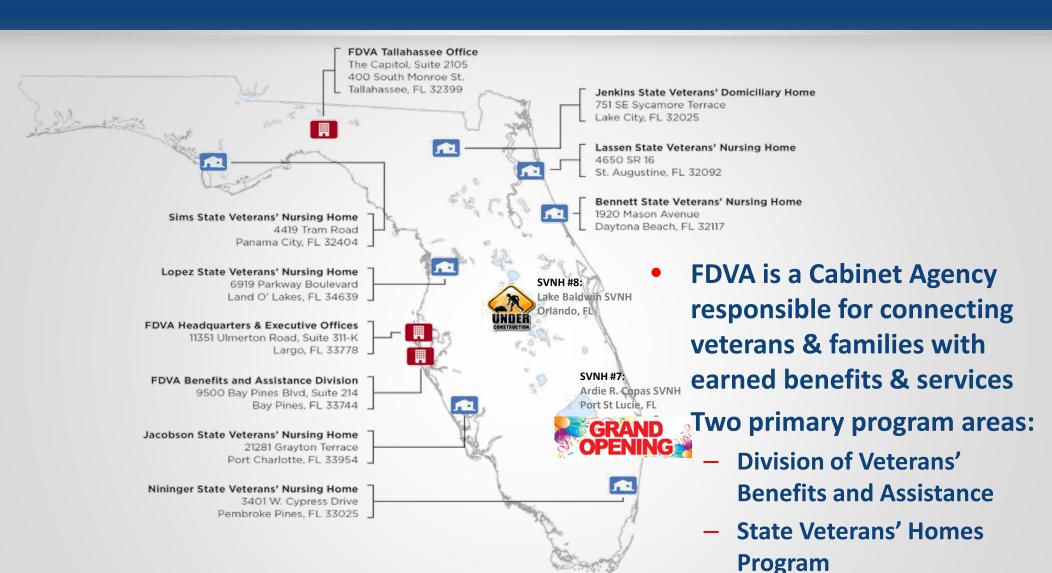


Agency Mission, Vision and Goals

- Mission: To advocate with purpose and passion for Florida veterans and link them to superior services, benefits and support.
- Vision: FDVA is the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits and support.
- Department-wide goals for next five years:
 - (1) Provide information and advocacy to Florida veterans, their families, and survivors, and assist them in obtaining all federal and state benefits due to them;
 - (2) Provide quality long-term healthcare services to eligible Florida veterans; and
 - (3) Provide effective and responsive management to support divisions and programs serving veterans.



Who We Are







FDVA STATE VETERANS' HOMES



Challenges

Agency budget/Trust Funds have been impacted in FY 2021/2022 by the following:

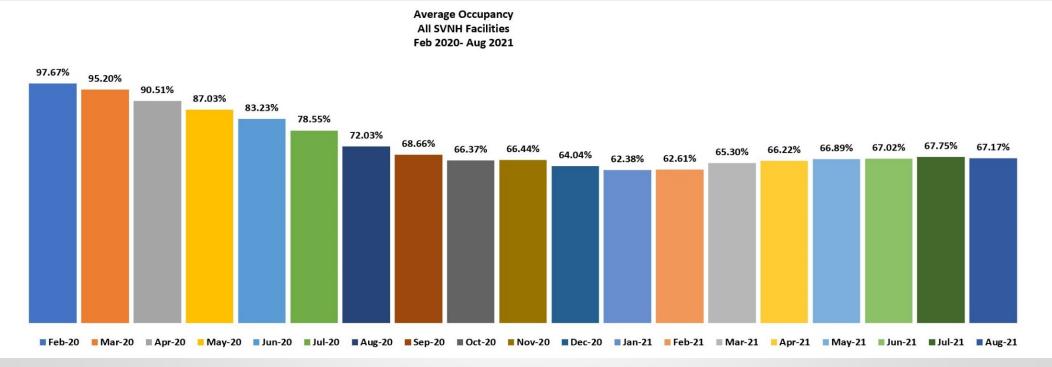
- COVID-19 Pandemic, recovery, and expenses
- Ardie R. Copas/Lake Baldwin SVNH near simultaneous openings
- Hurricane recovery two major hurricanes (Michael/Irma) residual expenses



Revenue Lost

Estimated Lost Revenue Due to COVID 19 for March 2020 to August 2021

			Resident	VA Basic Per							
	Part B	F	Responsibility	Diem	VA SVC CNT	N	ACD Per Diem	Tota	al Revenue Lost	Total Da	ys
Total Estimated Room & Board		\$	(5,255,655.89)	\$ (8,272,325.27)	\$ (13,523,317.52)	\$	(7,205,599.60)	\$	(34,256,898.28)	(108,78	87)
Total Estimated Part B	\$ (1,537,030.44)							\$	(1,537,030.44)		
Total Estimated Lost Revenue	\$ (1,537,030.44)	\$	(5,255,655.89)	\$ (8,272,325.27)	\$ (13,523,317.52)	\$	(7,205,599.60)	\$	(35,793,928.72)	(108,78	87)





Five Priority Areas for FY22-23

- Trust fund recovery
- Investing in our frontline staff
- Investing in our Veterans' quality of life
- Women Veterans Task Force
- Vietnam Veterans Outreach



Benefits and Assistance





Benefits and Assistance

- ROI for FY 2020-21: \$42:\$1
 - VA Benefits: :\$409,632,467
 - Retroactive Compensation: :\$156,355,935
 - Debt Waiver: \$231,992
 - Issue Resolution: \$45,912,507
 - Total: \$612,132,901
- Every federal dollar that FDVA B&A staff garners from advocacy on behalf of Florida's veterans is a dollar added to Florida's economy. Every health care or educational dollar provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs potentially frees a state dollar that can be used to assist other citizens.

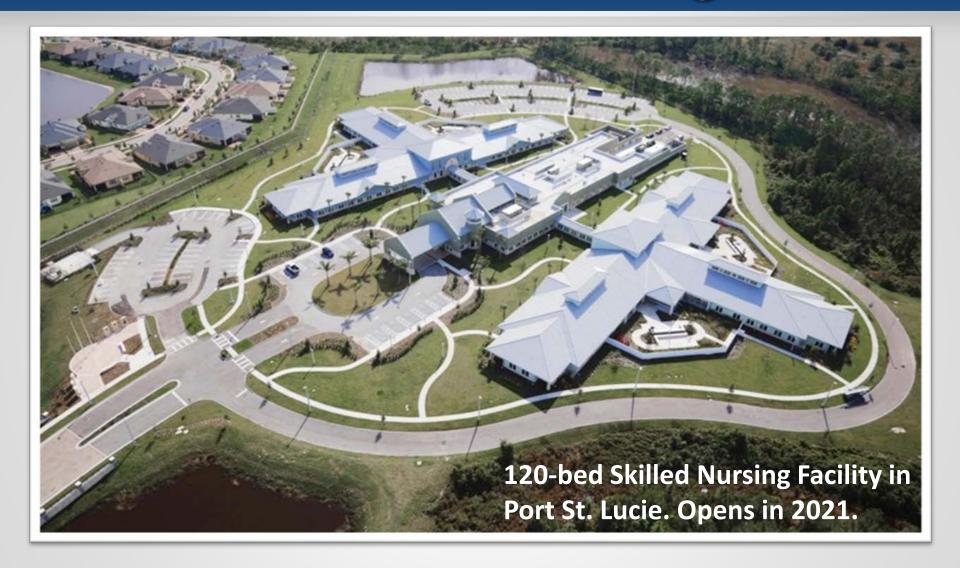


Lake Baldwin State Veterans' Nursing Home





Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home





Women Veterans Task Force





Vietnam Outreach Program





Our Honored Mission

A **veteran** is a person who, at some point in his or her life wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount up to and including their life. We humbly embrace our mission of advocating with purpose and passion for **Florida's Veterans** as an expression of our thanks for their selfless service and sacrifice.















FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.









#FLVets

The Florida Senate

12 OCT 2021

APPEARANCE RECORD

Bill Number or Topic	

Meeting Date Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security			Deliver both copies of this forn professional staff conducting the		Bill Number or Topic
Name	Committee James S. "Hamm	ner" Hartsell, Maj (Gen USMC (Ret.)	Phone	Amendment Barcode (if applicable) 850-487-1533
Address	s 400 S. Monroe	Street Ste. 21	05	Email	HartsellJ@FDVA.STATE.FL.US
	Tallahassee	FL State	32399 Zip		
	Speaking: For	Against 🔽 Inform	nation OR Wai	ve Spea	aking:
	m appearing without mpensation or sponsorship.	I a	CHECK ONE OF THE FO am a registered lobbyist, epresenting: la Department of Vete		I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.),

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional S	Staff conducting the meeting)
Meeting Date	Bill Number (if applicable)
Topic AGENCY UDDATE	Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name Bub Asztalus	
Job Title Deputy Director FOVA	- 62
Address 400 8, MONROE ST The CAPITUL	Phone 650 487-1533
Street FL 32399	Email ASTALICBE FOLK STATE A
	Speaking: In Support Against air will read this information into the record.)
Representing [WWDA DEPARTMENT of VETER	ANS AEFAIRS
Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No Lobbyist regis	tered with Legislature: Yes No
While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit a meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many	
This form is part of the public record for this meeting.	S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

Florida National Guard Update Brief October 12, 2021

> Major General James O. Eifert The Adjutant General



Department of Military Affairs MISSION



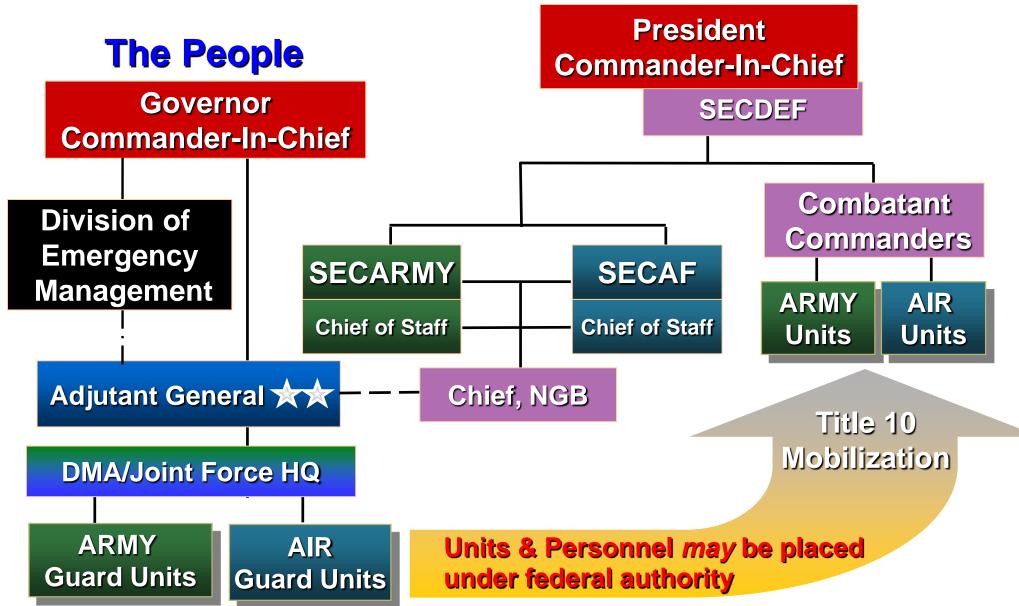
Provide highly trained units and personnel to:

- Support national security objectives
- Respond to emergencies and disasters
- Support programs which add value to our state and nation



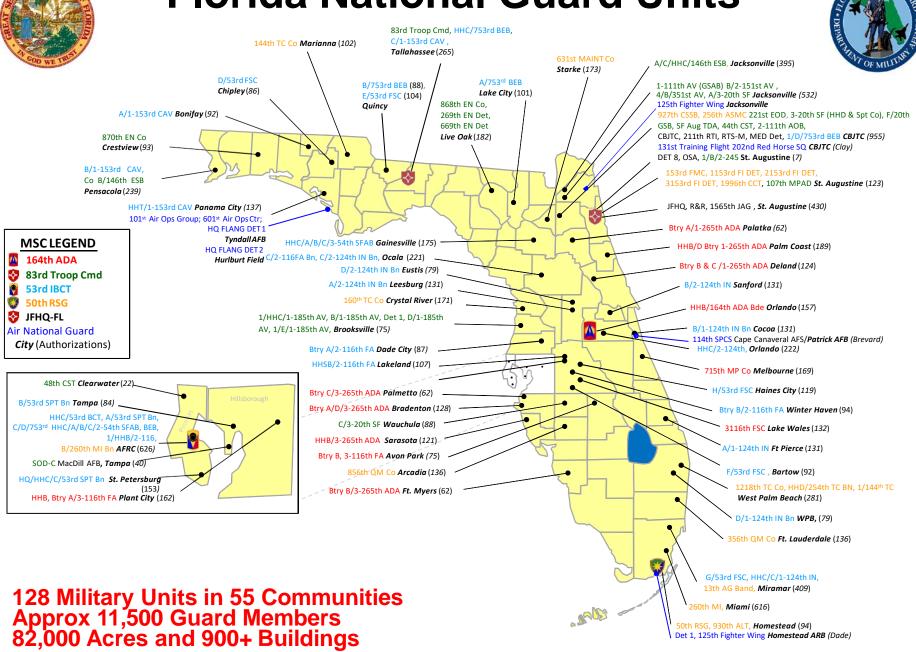
Organization Chain of Command







Florida National Guard Units



Effective 17 January 2019

FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD

COVID-19 RESPONSE

2906 SERVICE MEMBERS 660,657 TOTAL MAN DAYS



8 **FOOD BANK** DISTRIBUTION **MISSIONS**







The Florida National Guard (FLNG) transitions to

All federal orders will end 30SEP2021.

FLNG MISSION SUMMARY

recovery phase of COVID-19 Operations. Currently, SMs

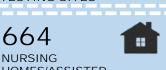
are supporting demobilization and closeout operations.



47 **TESTING SITES**

5,668,553

COMPLETED TESTS



NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES/ VA **CENTERS TESTED**

16

TESTING



Mobile Testing Bus/Aardvark Trailer Missions

LOGISTICS

80 SERVICE MEMBERS 28,943 MAN DAYS

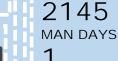


2,614,578 MILES DRIVEN

33,321 PALLETS OF PPE

429 HOSPITAL BEDS





FIELD HOSPITAL

SERVICE MEMBERS

TF MED

NGRF 2020-2021 1,400 SERVICE MEMBERS 5500 MAN DAYS

Hurricane IDA (LA)

SERVICE MEMBERS CIVILIANS DAYS 367 MAN DAYS

38 LNO SUPPORT

FLNG Provider Support

VACCINATIONS

10 **VACCINATION SITES**

130 MOBILE TEAMS

1,534,044 VACCINATIONS

HURRICANE ELSA

\$46,002 TOTAL ESTIMATED COST

SERVICE MEMBERS

DAYS

MISSIONS

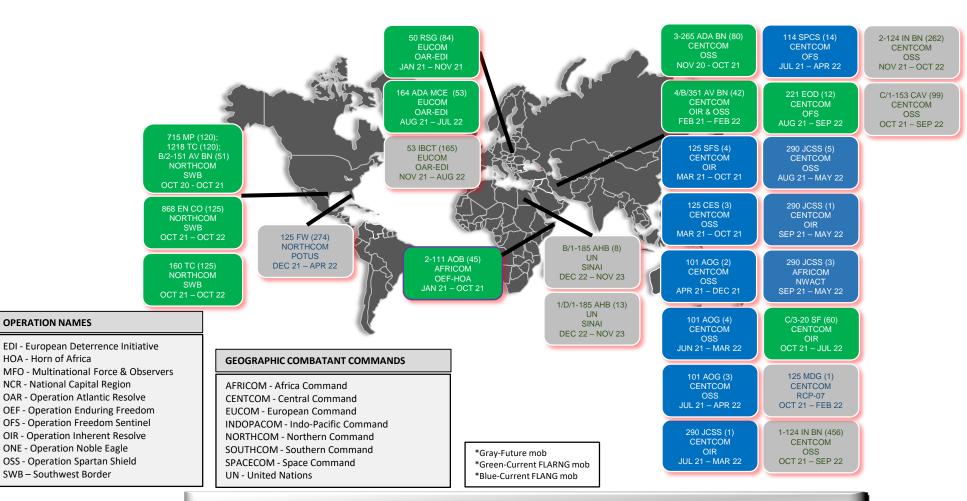
As of 1 OCT 2021



Florida National Guard Mobilization Status



FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENTS				
Total Soldiers & Airmen Currently Deployed As Of 5 October 2021:	957			
Total Soldiers & Airmen Scheduled for Deployment Through December 2021:	1,257			



UNCLASSIFIED

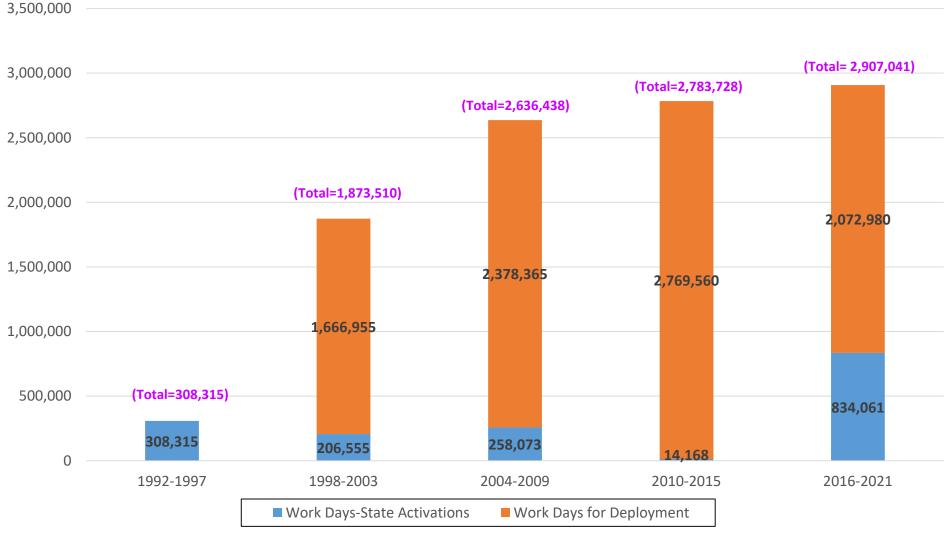
Mobilized over 25,000 since September 11, 2001



FLNG State and Federal Response

of Work Days





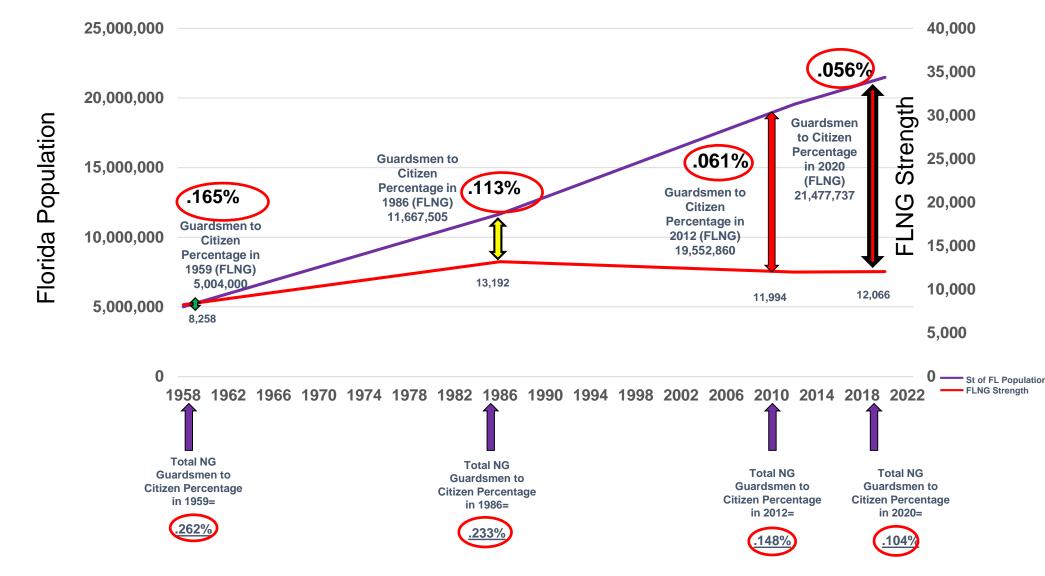
High Operational Tempo:

- <u>COVID:</u> > 2,900 Soldiers & Airmen activated; > <u>660k work days</u>
- State Activations/Response: Since Andrew, over 90 activations; over 1.5 Million work days
- Federal Deployments: Over 25,000 Soldiers & Airmen deployed since 9/11



FLNG Strength vs. FL Population 1958 to 2020







FLNG's #1 Congressional Priority Grow the FLNG



- As the 3rd most populous state, the FLNG is ranked 53 out of 54 in Guardsman-to-Citizen Ratio
 - In the past 30 years, the FL population <u>doubled</u> while FLNG force structure <u>declined</u>
 - FLNG has less force structure than Alabama NG despite FL's population being 5 times greater.
 - Florida's population will grow by 5 Million people this decade exacerbating current shortcomings
- Florida is geographically large, 850 mile end to end with 1,350 miles of coastline
 - FL coastline mileage exceeds TX, LA, MS, AL, GA, and SC <u>combined</u>, representing a significant vulnerability to hurricanes and climate change
 - Over 17 million FL residents currently live within 30 miles of a coast
- FL is disaster prone
 - 5th most FEMA declared disasters of all states in last 70 years
 - 3rd most damage from natural disasters per household of all states in the nation
- Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMACs) required for nearly every domestic response
 - Hurricane Irma (2017) required over 2,200 soldiers from 22 states
 - EMACs may not be supported during a pandemic response or other national emergencies
- If force structure were "proportional," the FLNG would be <u>>25,000 Guardsmen, rather than ~12,000</u>
- Current growth is not fast or big enough to meet the demand/requirements
- High Domestic Operational Tempo:
 - <u>COVID</u>: > 2,900 Soldiers & Airmen activated; > 650k man days
 - Hurricanes: In last 28 years, 48 activations; over 700K man days with 63K personnel



FLARNG Units

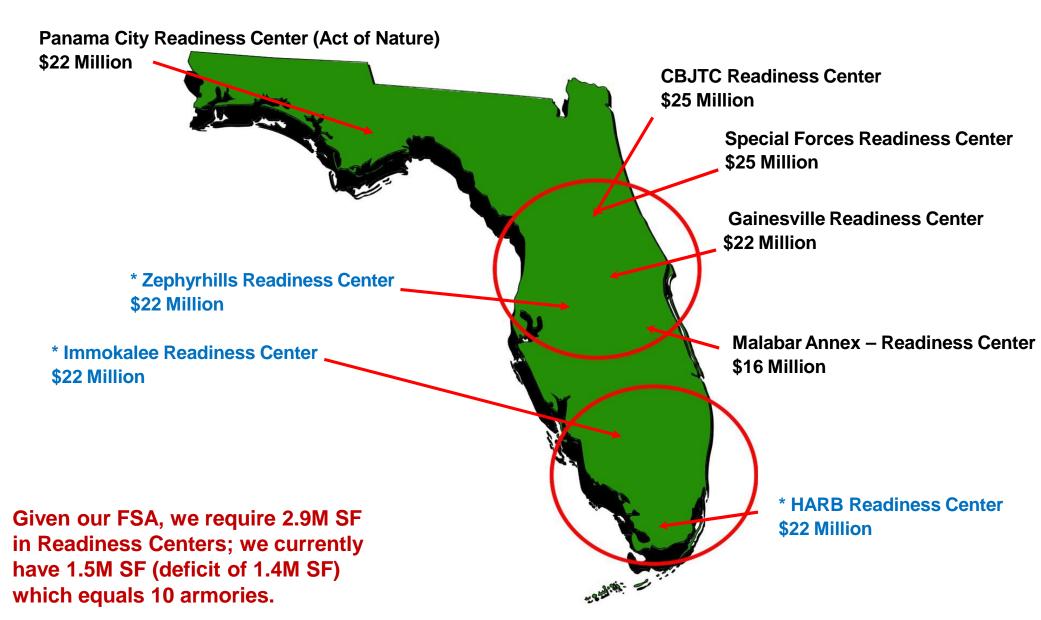






Growing Armories

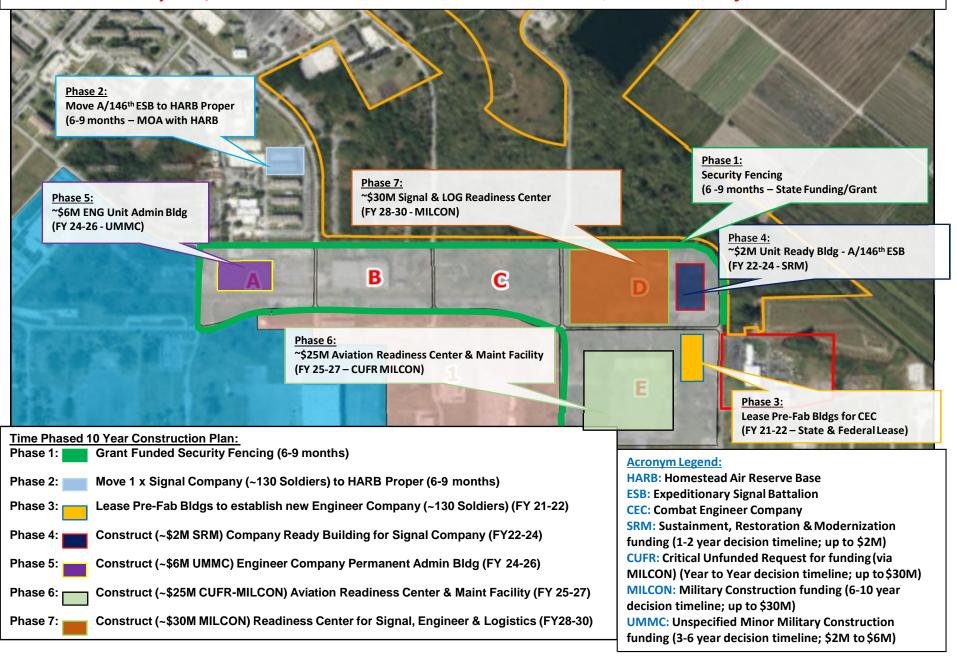




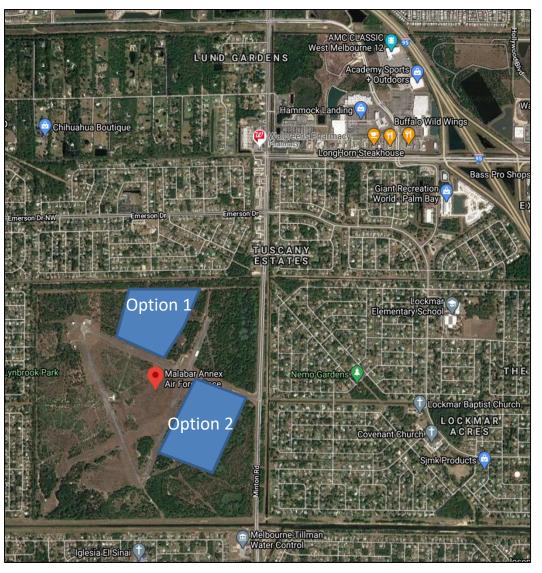
^{*} Requesting ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding for Readiness Center projects

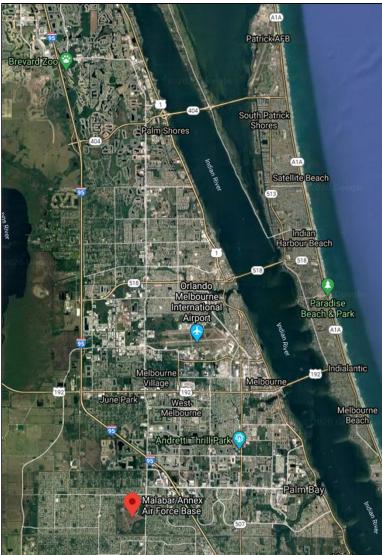
FLNG 10 Year HARB Development Plan

Over the next 10 years, the FLNG will relocate 500 Soldiers & invest \$65M in new infrastructure at HARB



Malabar Annex – Patrick Air Force Base







Department of Military Affairs Legislative Budget Request FY 22-23



<u>Priority 1</u> – Deferred Building Maintenance (General Revenue) \$17,780,285

<u>Priority 2</u> – Maintenance and Repair for Readiness Centers (General Revenue) \$8,300,000

<u>Priority 3</u> – Education Dollars for Duty (EDD) – Statewide (General Revenue) \$2,000,000

<u>Priority 4</u> – Workers' Compensation for State Active Duty (General Revenue) \$279,076

<u>Priority 5</u> – Equipment Life Cycle Replacement (Federal Grants) \$735,000

<u>Priority 6</u> – Building Upgrades for Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (Trust Fund) \$590,000

<u>Priority 7</u>—Salary Increase Appropriation (Trust Fund, Recurring) \$155,000

<u>Priority 8</u> – Maintenance and Repair – Counterdrug HQs Building (Asset Seizure Fund) \$2,165,000

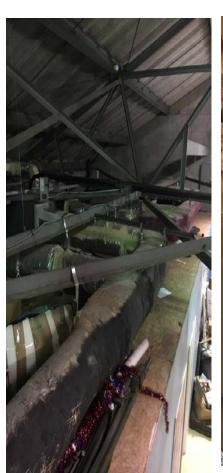


Armory Funding Issues



- FLNG currently maintains 62 armories at an average age of 48 years
- Useful life of a facility is generally 52 years.
- DMA has a \$8.3M need in recurring maintenance & repair funds annually.
 - Armory Space = 1.5M square feet
 - Industry standard \$5.56 per sq ft per year (\$5.56 x 1.5M sq ft = <u>~\$8.3M</u>)









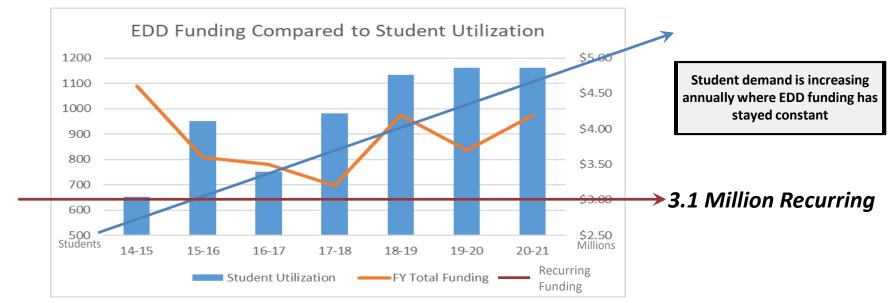








- EDD may pay up to 100% of tuition rate for FLNG personnel that are in "good standing"
- EDD is FLNG's #1 recruiting & retention incentive
- Experiencing a 15% increase in demand annually
- COVID & Increased deployments causing an increase in distance learning fees/programs



FLNG REQUEST

\$2.0 Million in additional recurring EDD funding



FLNG - Federal Objectives



Priority 1: Growing the FLNG

- As the 3rd most populous state, FLNG is ranked 53 out of 54 when comparing Guard personnel to citizen population.
- Florida's population will grow 5M over the next 10 years and FL is 4th most disaster prone State in the Nation.
- The FLNG experiencing a sustained high OPTEMPO: over 22,000 deployed since 9/11; over 1.1M work days supporting state disaster response.
- Growing personnel and facilities is an investment in our citizens' security.

Priority 2: Gainesville Readiness Center

(Critical Unfunded MILCON - \$22M)

- In 2018, our force structure grew by two Battalions from the 54th Security Forces Assistance Brigade, 175 personnel each.
- The project would construct a 54,840 SF National Guard Readiness Center to support, 175 personnel and 82 wheeled vehicles and trailers, and 4,182 SF General Purpose Training Bay.

Priority 3: Scout Recce Range @ Camp Blanding

(Approved on FYDP for \$16M)

- This range project, previously approved for FY14, has experienced several delays. The planning charrette was conducted in 2008; originally placed on FYDP for 2014, slide to FY17, then FY22 and now is being considered for another move on the FYDP to FY26.
- This critical project enhances training and throughput capability for HMMWV based units with multiple weapons densities by providing a range complex at Camp Blanding to qualify single gun truck crews up to 4 truck crews at the same time and place. Currently, all FLNG type units have to travel outside the state of FL to conduct this level of training.
- If unable to maintain on the FY22 schedule, the FLNG will experience a significant degradation in our readiness for HMMWV based units by increasing drive time out of state to similar ranges in MS and GA; reduction in range and training time; and shifting training funds to host states' training facilities

Priority 4: Special Forces Readiness Center

<u>(MILCON - \$25M)</u>

- For over 30 years, the Special Forces units located at Camp Blanding have lacked adequate facilities to train for their federal and state missions.
- The Special Forces is a frequent deploying unit totaling 19 mobilizations both CONUS and OCONUS since 2002.
- Consolidating the units into one Readiness Center on Camp Blanding will significantly enhance the unit's ability to achieve required

Priority 5: HARB Readiness Center

(MILCON - \$25M)

- South Florida is a strategic recruiting region for the United States Army. Relocation of units with recruiting shortages to South Florida has resulted in proven success of filling vacant positions at an expeditious rate.
- Construction of a new facility in Homestead supports an increase in readiness of the Florida National Guard by providing the required infrastructure for newly stationed units with an adequate training area, administrative space, supply room, arms vault and toilets/showers for the Soldiers. This facility will accommodate the 50th RSG HQs, A/146th Expeditionary Signal Battalion and the 870th Engineer Company.

17



Questions





www.floridaguard.army.mil/news

http://dma.myflorida.com

www.twitter.com/flguard

www.facebook.com/floridanationalguard

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Meeting Date	or deflate i fotessional e	Bill Number (if applicable)
Topic FLURT DA NATIONAL GUARD UDD.		Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name MASOR GENERAL TUNES EIGER	, special section of the section of	-
Job Title ANTITANT GENERAL		<u>-</u>
Address Street		Phone (850) 414 9049
St. Argustine FC	37080	Email
Speaking: For Against Information		speaking: In Support Against air will read this information into the record.)
Representing Floring	11	straty Africa
Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No	Lobbyist regist	tered with Legislature: Yes No
Malle it is a Compta to allies to accompany to the Comptant	, , , , , ,	

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 37 Case No.: Type:

Caption: Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Judge:

Started: 10/12/2021 12:31:33 PM

Ends: 10/12/2021 2:11:46 PM Length: 01:40:14

12:31:31 PM Meeting called to order by Chair Wright

12:31:56 PM Roll call by CAA, Lois Graham

12:32:12 PM Quorum announced

12:33:14 PM Pledge led by Senator Burgess

12:33:26 PM Opening Comments by Chair Wright

12:33:31 PM Chair Wright with comments

12:33:36 PM

12:33:41 PM

12:33:47 PM Tab 1 - Presentation by Major General James S. Hartsell, Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

12:33:53 PM Major General James S. Hartsell presents

12:48:49 PM Bob Asztalos, Deputy Director, FDVA presents

12:51:52 PM Major General Hartsell continues presentation

12:53:36 PM Chair Wright with comments

12:53:43 PM Senator Torres with comments

12:57:38 PM Major General Hartsell with comments

12:59:24 PM Senator Cruz with comments

1:00:44 PM Senator Gibson with question

1:01:20 PM Major General Hartsell responds

1:01:30 PM Senator Gibson with question

1:01:35 PM Major General Hartsell responds

1:02:20 PM Senator Gibson with question

1:02:27 PM Major General Hartsell responds

1:03:20 PM Senator Gibson with question

1:03:27 PM Major General Hartsell responds

1:03:54 PM Senator Gibson with guestion

1:04:00 PM Major General Hartsell responds

1:05:18 PM Senator Harrell with question

1:06:01 PM Major General Hartsell responds

1:08:21 PM Senator Harrell with follow-up

1:08:28 PM Major General Hartsell responds

1:10:17 PM Senator Harrell with question

1:10:38 PM Major General Hartsell responds

1:13:57 PM Senator Burgess with comments

1:16:36 PM Major General Hartsell with comments

1:17:02 PM Chair Wright with question

1:17:08 PM Major General Hartsell responds

1:18:45 PM Chair Wright with question

1:19:48 PM Major General Hartsell responds

1:21:26 PM Chair Wright with comments

1:21:43 PM Major General Hartsell responds

1:21:55 PM Chair Wright with question

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1:22:03 PM Major General Hartsell responds
1:22:55 PM Chair Wright with comments
1:23:12 PM Tab 2 Presentation by Major General James O. Eifert, Adjutant General of the Florida
National Guard, Department of Military Affairs
1:23:29 PM Major General Eifert presents
1:46:08 PM Senator Cruz with question
1:46:17 PM Major General Eifert responds
1:47:19 PM Senator Cruz with follow-up
1:48:19 PM Major General Eifert responds
1:48:28 PM Senator Cruz with follow-up
1:48:33 PM Major General Eifert responds
1:49:24 PM Senator Cruz with follow-up
1:49:28 PM Major General Eifert responds
1:49:47 PM Senator Cruz with question
1:49:51 PM Major General responds
1:49:57 PM Senator Harrell with guestion
1:50:05 PM Major General Eifert responds
1:52:38 PM Senator Harrell with follow-up
1:52:48 PM Major General Eifert responds
1:55:20 PM Senator Gibson with question
1:55:32 PM Major General Eifert responds
1:56:25 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
1:56:35 PM Major General Eifert responds
1:58:07 PM Senator Gibson with question
1:58:21 PM Major General Eifert responds
1:59:19 PM Senator Gibson with question
1:59:26 PM Major General Eifert responds
1:59:40 PM Senator Gibson with question
1:59:45 PM Major General Eifert responds
2:00:53 PM Senator Gibson with follow-up
2:01:00 PM Major General Eifert responds
2:01:28 PM Senator Gibson with question
2:01:34 PM Major General Eifert responds
2:01:58 PM Senator Gibson with question
2:02:04 PM Major General Eifert responds
2:02:20 PM Senator Gibson with question
2:02:26 PM Major General Eifert responds
2:02:54 PM Senator Gibson with guestion
2:03:00 PM Major General Eifert responds
2:03:17 PM Senator Burgess with comments
2:04:46 PM Chair Wright with comments
2:05:45 PM Senator Gibson with comments
2:06:06 PM Chair Wright with comments
2:06:11 PM Senator Torres with question
2:06:34 PM Major General Eifert responds
2:07:59 PM Senator Torres with follow-up
2:08:08 PM Major General Eifert responds
2:09:10 PM Senator Gibson with comments
2:09:34 PM Chair Wright with comments
2:10:00 PM Senator Harrell with comments
2:11:02 PM Major General Eifert with comments
2:11:23 PM Senator Torres moves to adjourn
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2:11:35 PM Meeting adjourned